

## REMARKS

Claims 15-20 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

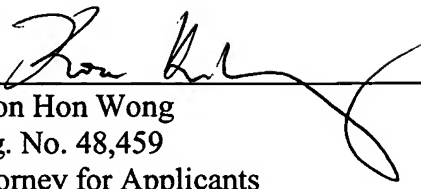
Claims 15, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kaganowicz (U.S. Patent No. 5,011,268) (hereinafter "Kaganowicz"). Claims 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,141) (hereinafter "Onuma"). Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaganowicz and Chaudhari et al. (hereinafter "Chaudhari").

Claims 15 and 20 have been amended. Claim 21 has been added. It is believed that the amendments place the claims in allowable form. The recited prior art does not disclose a "stoichiometric ratio adjusted to provide a given pretilt angle," as claimed in claim 15. Also, the recited prior art does not teach or suggest "a stoichiometric ratio adjusted to provide an adjusted pretilt angle," as claimed in claim 20. Further, the recited prior art does not teach or suggest "an amount of material for adjusting a stoichiometric ratio of the constituent materials of the alignment layer, wherein the amount is determined to provide a given pretilt angle of the alignment layer different than the preexisting pretilt angle of the alignment layer," as claimed in claim 21. Withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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